

School spending 90 percent above the national average

NEWS, 3A

The Journal News

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HOLIDAY HOLDUP

Worst time on the road

The worst time to travel will be Thursday and Friday afternoon, specifically, Friday between 3:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Weekend forecast

Thursday through Sunday, expect temperatures in the mid-to-high 70s, with temperatures potentially peaking into the 80s on Friday and Saturday.

Gas prices

GasBuddy.com pegs the average gas price in Westchester at \$3.17, Rockland at \$3.19 and Putnam at \$3.14.



Drivers should expect wall-to-wall traffic on Thursday — the worst day to travel before the Memorial Day weekend. FILE PHOTO BY SETH HARRISON/THE JOURNAL NEWS

Memorial Day traffic to be worst on Thursday, Friday afternoon

Matt Coyne Rockland/Westchester Journal News
USA TODAY NETWORK

Traveling this Memorial Day? Get ready for traffic.

According to the American Automobile Association, the New Yorkers among the tens of millions traveling this weekend could see their time spent in gridlock triple, the worst delays nationwide.

The worst time to travel will be Thursday and Friday afternoon, specifically, Friday between 3:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.

"Ranked the most congested country in world, U.S. drivers are all too familiar with sitting in traffic," said Graham Cookson, chief economist and head of research at transportation analytics company INRIX, which worked with AAA on their projections. "Our advice to drivers is to avoid peak commute times in major cities altogether — traveling late morning or early afternoon — or plan alternative routes."

How many people will be traveling Memorial Day weekend?

Americans are determined to get on the roads and get moving this year.

AAA projects that 41.5 million people will travel this weekend, a 13 year high and nearly 5 percent more than last year.

The vast majority — 36.6 million — will travel by car, 4.7 percent more than last year. But planes, trains, buses and boats will see increases, too, with 3.1 million flying, a 6.8 percent increase and 1.8 million traveling by rail, bus or water, 2.4 percent more than last year.

For those traveling around the Lower Hudson Valley, or greater New York metropolitan area, more travelers means a lot more traffic.

INRIX data suggest that travel times could increase by 2.7 times for those traveling around and through the New York area during peak periods this weekend.

Among the country's other largest metropolitan

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Why E. coli romaine outbreak is likely over

David Robinson Rockland/Westchester Journal News
USA TODAY NETWORK

Editors' note: Check back for The Journal News/lohud investigation into food-borne illness amid outbreaks at popular Westchester County restaurants and high-profile public health warnings about contaminated romaine lettuce and eggs sold across the country.

The romaine lettuce E. coli outbreak is likely over as the harvest from Yuma, Arizona, is no longer available across the country. However, authorities are still investigating what caused the incident.

Authorities declared romaine safe to eat again after the E. coli contaminated lettuce spread across 32 states and sickened more than 170 people, including five in New York, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or CDC.

The last shipments of romaine lettuce from the Yuma growing region were harvested on April 16, and the harvest season is over, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

"It is unlikely that any romaine lettuce from the Yuma growing region is still available in stores or restaurants due to its 21-day shelf life," the CDC says.

Despite the outbreak's likely end, the CDC last week reported 23 new cases tied to romaine lettuce from the Yuma growing region, bringing the number of illnesses to 172, USA TODAY Network reported.

At least one person has died and 75 people have been hospitalized with the bacterial infection, which

See **ROMAINE**, Page 5A

Mount Vernon mayor sues city comptroller

Ernie Garcia Rockland/Westchester Journal News
USA TODAY NETWORK

MOUNT VERNON — City officials are returning to the courts to resolve another dispute, this time over a commissioner's pay and benefits.

In a May 15 lawsuit filed with the state Supreme Court, the City of Mount Vernon and planning Commissioner Chantelle L. Okarter allege that city Comptroller Deborah Reynolds has refused to pay Okarter's health benefits and salary since April 3.

Mayor Richard Thomas' administration asked the court to enforce a 2017 court order prohibiting the comptroller or City Council from interfering with the

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Neighbors in area making their mark

They come from all walks of life: from the kitchen, from the clergy, from the humblest of starts, from a place of grace and loss, from families that instilled the idea of being useful, being of service.

If it's lucky, every community has at least one of their kind: people who make their mark, make a difference, make this place what it is.

They're from Suffern and Larchmont, from Eastchester and Yonkers, from Somers and Nyack.

You might recognize them as people you've seen in your community. But if you know them by sight, chances are you don't know the whole story. Read more about your neighbors at lohud.com.



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